

## BRAVE MEN DIE.

Eleven Gallant Indianapolis Firemen Killed.

NEARLY A SCORE MORE ARE INJURED.

A Burning Building Collapses Without Warning and the Unfortunates Are Buried 'neath the Blazing Debris.

### A TERRIBLE CALAMITY.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 18.—What at first seemed an insignificant fire in the Bowen-Merrill book store Monday afternoon resulted in a catastrophe in which at least eleven men were killed and a dozen wounded, some of whom will die. The building occupied by the book company was a four-story and basement marble front facing Washington street just west of Meridian. The fire started shortly before 8 o'clock near the furnace in the sub-basement, and the department, when it arrived, seemed at a loss to locate the flames and began pouring water into the front of the building. For two hours the fire had continued in this way until a majority of the spectators had left, under the impression that the fire was out.

About 5:30 o'clock, however, there was a terrible crash and the entire building, with the exception of the front wall, fell inward. At the time a number of firemen were on the roof and were buried in the debris, which was piled forty feet high within the walls of the burned building. The work of rescuing the living and extricating the dead was immediately begun by at least 500 volunteers.

Following are the names of the dead, all firemen:

George Faulkner, George Glenn, Uyreses Glaser, A. Hoffman, Thomas Burkhardt, Espey Stormer, Richard Lowrie, Charles Jenkins, Andrew Cherry, Anthony Veltz and Henry Woodruff.

The injured, all firemen, are as follows:

Joseph Burkhardt, leg broken and internal injuries; Richard Kelly, internal injuries; William Tallentyre, arm broken and body bruised; Will Day, Porter, skull crushed, will die; Thomas black, limbs broken and internal injuries; fatal; George Dillard, unconscious from internal injuries; Sam Neal, internal injuries; Tony Vatz, leg broken and body badly bruised; William Jones, internal injuries; William Rosen, arm broken and skull fractured; Charles Jenkins, skull fractured and injured internally; Thomas Barrett, injured internally; William Robinson, internal injuries; William McGinnis, legs both broken, badly hurt; Edward Leach, injured internally, unconscious; John Keating, body badly bruised and burned; William Long, slightly injured about head.

The Bowen-Merrill Company carried a stock valued at \$125,000, on which there was an insurance of \$70,000. The building was owned by Silas T. Bowen, and the loss on the structure will be \$30,000. H. P. Wasson, dealer in dry goods, suffered a loss of \$10,000 by smoke and water, and Hyman & Sullivan lost half that amount. Several smaller stocks are badly damaged. Bowen & Merrill have secured a new location and will reopen in a few days.

The scene on the heap of debris immediately after the collapse was pitiable and dreadful beyond all power of description. The limbs of men here and there were seen writhing, while the trunks to which they belonged were buried from sight. A ladder lay across three men and was weighted down by tons of brick and timber. Another poor fellow who was beyond all pain lay close beside his fellows a shapeless and mangled mass. The ladder lay across the stomach of one man who was screaming with agony. Another man with a broken and twisted body lay next to him. As fast as willing hands could hurl away the bricks the weight was removed, but the ladder was too firmly held to yield. The man with a broken arm was dragged free and carried away. Under him, but breathing, appeared the upturned face of a poor fellow not seen before. The mortar and dust were cleaned from his lips, but he was buried so deeply that no immediate help could come to him.

On all sides blackened and bleeding faces distorted with agony or dreadful in death urged the crowd who had scaled the heap to assist them to redouble their efforts. All the work of relief was carried on with great difficulty. One by one the men nearest the surface were extricated, but as the workers went down further they discovered new victims and the horror steadily grew.

The physicians say that half of those injured will die. All are more or less burned. It was almost a red-hot furnace where they fell into, and it seems remarkable that a single man who went down came out alive. The fall itself (sixty feet) was enough to kill all those who were on the roof of the ill-fated building. The injured are receiving all the attention possible at the various city hospitals, more than half a hundred physicians having volunteered their services.

The debris caught fire from the red-hot bricks and blazed up threateningly right above where the men had been buried. The cool-headed firemen who had not gone down to death, however, worked heroically, and soon had the flames under control. Thus the pinned men were saved from a death more horrible than that which stared them in the face. Within an hour twenty-nine bodies had been removed from the debris, and of this number twelve were dead.

The calamity is by far the greatest that has ever befallen any fire department in the West. The unfortunate men, too, are the oldest and best men in the department, some of them having been in the service for twenty years. The killed are all men of families, and already steps for the relief of the bereft are being taken.

A fund which has been started for the relief of injured firemen and the families of those who are dead has reached the sum of \$2,000. Mayor Sullivan has issued a proclamation calling for subscriptions.

Shortly after midnight the searching party discovered a man in the ruins, and, as a large beam had fallen across his body, he was somewhat protected from the piles of brick and stone that came down with the wall. He was pinned to the ground,

but the weight upon him was not strong enough to crush out his life. He could not be reached, however, on account of the pile of stuff that was above him, and life would surely be extinct before he could be rescued if he did not receive some bodily strength. A peculiar device was resorted to. A rubber tube was lowered to the unfortunate man's mouth, and in this manner he was fed with whisky. For over fourteen hours he lay in his dangerous position. Every minute it was expected that the huge piece of timber would sink and crush out what life remained in the man, and the rescuers worked heroically to release him. At intervals of a half-hour the man was given a little whisky through the tube, and he was able to bear up until he was released. It was 9:45 o'clock a. m. when he was taken from the ruins, and a cheer went up from the crowd when they saw that he was alive and would probably live. The voices of several persons in the ruins can be distinctly heard above the noise of the workmen removing the piles of brick and broken timbers.

### IOWA LEGISLATURE.

The Hawkeye Statesmen Kept Busy—Many Measures Received and Considered—The Senate Votes to Reduce the Rate of Interest.

DES MOINES, Ia., March 18.—Both houses Monday received an unusual number of petitions, memorials and bills asking for legislation governing various departments of labor, suffrage irrespective of sex, State uniformity of school-books, compulsory education, the continuance of the prohibitory law and prohibiting the sale of narcotics to minors. Barnett's bill to reduce the rate of contract interest from 10 to 8 per cent. came up in the Senate and was finally passed. In the House the two-mill tax levy came up on the adoption of a resolution asking the committee on ways and means to make an estimate, on the basis of a two-mill levy, of the amount of money that will be available for extraordinary appropriations by the present General Assembly. This was carried.

DES MOINES, Ia., March 18.—The bill reducing the legal rate of interest from 10 to 8 per cent. was passed by the Senate to-day. The Senate adopted a resolution providing for adjournment April 15.

### ENGLAND'S GREAT STRIKE.

Belief That the Strikers Will Win—Much Inconvenience Results from a Scarcity of Coal.

LONDON, March 18.—It is the general opinion that the striking miners of Great Britain will succeed in forcing the masters to concede their demands for an immediate advance of 5 per cent. in their wages and a further advance of 5 per cent. on July 1. Many more mine-owners in Nottinghamshire and Lancashire have accepted the terms of the men. The cotton mills at Accrington, Blackburn, Bury and Bolton are stopping work owing to the scarcity of coal, because of the miners' strike. The London & Southwestern Railway Company is also suffering from the scarcity of coal. The officials have instructed the employees to be as economical as possible in the use of fuel. One of the economies ordered is the stoppage of all fires in the waiting-rooms of stations along the line.

### A Mystery in Chicago.

CHICAGO, March 18.—Jennie McGarvey, a grass widow aged about 37 years, was found in an unconscious state early Monday morning at the corner of Garfield boulevard and Morgan street in the town of Lake. She was taken to the county hospital and died at 5:45 o'clock Monday afternoon. The books of the hospital give fracture at the base of the skull as the cause of death, but whether the fracture resulted from accident or assault is not known. The death is a mystery.

### Fire in a Pennsylvania Town.

HARRISVILLE, Pa., March 18.—Fire Monday morning destroyed E. S. Beatty's hardware store, Curry's grocery, Henderson's barber-shop, Goldbraith's shoe store and Morrison's grocery. The town being without fire apparatus the fire spread rapidly, and for a time it was feared the entire village would be destroyed. The loss is about \$15,000; the insurance \$5,000.

### German Socialists Enter a Complaint.

BERLIN, March 18.—The Socialists are a good deal discontented with the composition of the Labor conference. They complain that the working classes are not represented, and that not even the factory inspectors are being admitted to its deliberations. All the experts, they say, are manufacturers and bureaucrats and do not represent the working people.

### Sensation in Virginia.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., March 18.—It is rumored here that one of the biggest attempts at fraud, in which over \$1,000,000 is involved, is soon to be brought to light in Stafford County by the arrest of a wealthy man, who has for the past two weeks been shadowed by detectives. It is further alleged that a wealthy Northern corporation is also involved.

### Shot His Playmate.

NORWALK, Conn., March 18.—George Phillips, the son of William Phillips, accidentally shot and instantly killed Charles Railwich, the 16-year-old son of T. F. Bailwich, at the latter's residence in Weston Sunday. The boys were playmates, and the Phillips boy was examining a shot-gun when it was suddenly discharged.

### Fate of a Pioneer and His Wife.

AUSTIN, Minn., March 18.—The residence of F. Augustus Carll near Lansing was burned Sunday night. Monday morning neighbors found the charred bodies of Mr. Carll and his wife among the smoldering ruins. Mr. Carll was an early settler and owned considerable property. Nothing is known about the origin of the fire.

### Will Try to Beat Train.

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., March 18.—Miss Regina Rothschild left Monday night to make the trip around the globe to beat George Francis Train's time. Her route has been arranged by the Canadian Pacific railway.

## WHY HE QUIT.

Bismarck's Reasons for Resigning His Place.

THEY ARE OLD AGE AND ILL HEALTH.

Other Causes Set Forth Through Unofficial Sources—General Von Caprivi, Commander of the Tenth Corps, Made Chancellor.

### BISMARCK'S SUCCESSOR.

BERLIN, March 19.—General Von Caprivi, Commander of the Tenth Army Corps, has been appointed Chancellor of the Empire to succeed Prince Bismarck.

Prince Bismarck, in his note to the Emperor tendering his resignation, alleged that old age and failing health were his reasons for desiring to withdraw from public life.

The papers call attention to the fact that while taking lunch Tuesday with the delegates to the labor conference, Prince Bismarck gave a cordial greeting to M. Jules Simon, the head of the French delegation, and had a long conversation with him. He had invited all the French delegates to dine with him Thursday.

The Bourse is weak in consequence of Prince Bismarck's resignation. Prussian consols have declined  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Other Prussian securities are depressed.

The National Gazette, in an article on the resignation of Prince Bismarck, says it expects that the excitement abroad will subside when the conviction gains ground that the Germans look to the future with full confidence in the Emperor and the German National spirit.

BERLIN, March 19.—It is said the principal causes of Prince Bismarck's resignation are the following: King William is determined to rule more in accordance with the wishes of his people. There is no longer any ground whatever for belief in an alleged estrangement between his Majesty and the Empress Frederick, his mother, who has fully regained that influence which she was said to have quite lost. Others who have run counter to Prince Bismarck's views on international policy have gained his Majesty's ear.

It was also in the highest degree disagreeable to Prince Bismarck that the composition of the new Reichstag has made it impossible for him to continue to govern. His efforts to effect an understanding with Dr. Windthorst proved abortive. Such attempts were really made, despite the repeated contradiction.

It is said that Prince Bismarck became incensed at the action of Herr Hinzpeter in composing the labor rescripts without consulting him. It is also asserted that the Chancellor recently had a dispute with Herr von Boetticher, whom the Emperor favored, and also differences with the Emperor on colonial matters.

The resignation of the Prussian ministry was merely a formal act customary upon the resignation of the Prime Minister, but it is reported that the resignations of Count Bismarck and Herr von Maybach were seriously tendered and may be accepted.

Herren Rickert and Goldschmidt, and other Freisinnige deputies, were invited to the court banquet last night. Never before has a member of the Freisinnige party been thus honored. It is said that the Freisinnige professors, Handl and Herr Miquel, will be invited to enter the Cabinet as an earnest of the Emperor's desire to legislate for the people.

The Tageblatt attributes Prince Bismarck's resignation entirely to the social legislation question. The bourse was only slightly affected by the Chancellor's resignation.

The National Gazette says: "The gratitude toward the restorers of Germany that is filling the hearts of Germans at this critical time proves that Prince Bismarck will long be regarded as the personification of Germany's growth and prosperity."

VENNA, March 19.—The confirmation of the report that Prince Bismarck's resignation has been accepted is causing a tremendous sensation in political circles here. The almost immediate retirement of Count Kalnoky is also looked for in consequence. The Chancellor's action is generally admitted to have been brought about by the young Emperor's determination to have a free hand in the management of state affairs rather than to have any differences of opinion regarding any social problem.

The Temps, Journal des Debats and other French newspapers display anxiety regarding the future. They say that, in view of the previous surprises afforded by the Emperor's policy, there is no guaranty that the structure which the Chancellor so carefully built will be retained intact.

The Austrian Government is said to fear a rupture of the peace alliance in consequence of Bismarck's retirement.

### A Town Nearly Destroyed.

ATHENS, Ga., March 19.—Maysville, a town of about 1,000 inhabitants near this city, was almost swept from the face of the earth Tuesday by fire, the entire business portion of the village being laid low. The fire was discovered about 1 o'clock a. m. and an alarm soon brought out the entire population of the little place. Efforts to check the blaze were fruitless, and before dawn the principal business square was in ashes. Only one store is left in the town. The extent of the loss is not definitely known.

### Heavy Snow-Fall in Gotham.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Snow began falling heavily in this city early this morning, and at 11 o'clock fully five inches of snow was on the ground. As a consequence traffic was greatly impeded. The mails were late in their arrival, and ferry traffic was hindered to a great degree.

### Noland Under Arrest.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 19.—Ex-State Treasurer Noland was arrested Tuesday on a charge of embezzling the funds of the State. He was admitted to bail in the sum of \$5,000.

## BISMARCK RETIRES.

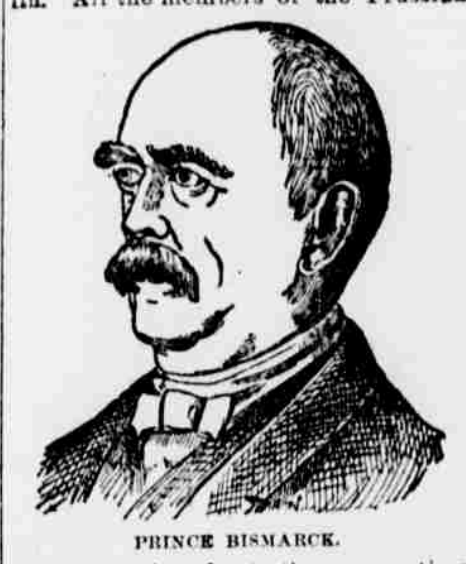
The Great German Statesman Tenders His Resignation.

EMPEROR WILLIAM HAS ACCEPTED IT.

His Son, Count Herbert Bismarck and the Other Members of the Prussian Cabinet Also Resign—Rumors as to the Cause.

### BISMARCK IS OUT.

BERLIN, March 18.—Both Prince Bismarck and his son, Count Bismarck, have resigned, and Emperor William has accepted the resignation of the Chancellor and will probably allow the Count to retire. Various rumors are afloat concerning the affair, which have caused intense excitement in Berlin. All the members of the Prussian



PRINCE BISMARCK.

Ministry resigned at the same time Prince Bismarck tendered his resignation.

Some of the morning papers affirm that the Emperor on Monday informed Prince Bismarck that he would not insist upon his remaining in office if it was his desire to retire to private life.

A rumor is abroad to the effect that the Emperor intends to appoint General von Caprivi, who is now Commander of the Tenth Army Corps, to the Chancellorship.

It is rumored in well-informed political circles that the present difference between the Emperor and Prince Bismarck was irreconcilable. It arose from the Chancellor's refusal to accede to a request made by Dr. Windthorst, the leader of the clerical party in Germany, to restore to the Duke of Cumberland, the claimant of the throne of Hanover, the larger portion of the Guelph fund.

When the public worship estimates came up for discussion in the lower house of the Prussian Diet to-day Dr. Windthorst said it had been his intention to review the position of Catholics in Prussia, but that he would desist, owing to the uncertainty of the political situation.

### BISMARCK'S CAREER.

The Iron Chancellor, whose full name is Prince Otto Edward Leopold Bismarck, was born at Brunsdun on April 1, 1815. His career has been a remarkable one. With the exception of the first Napoleon, and possibly of Gladstone and Disraeli, he has exercised a greater influence in European affairs than any other man of the present century. He began his diplomatic career in 1846, when he became chief secretary of a legation. He was soon advanced to the post of Prussian Ambassador to the German Diet in Frankfurt. It was at this time that he began his efforts to extend Prussia's dominion and power. He was transferred to St. Petersburg, where he remained from 1856 to 1862. While at this post he used all the influence he could command to cement friendly relations between Russia and the kingdom of Prussia. It has been said, too, that he tried without avail to bring about an alliance between his own country and France and Russia. His policy pleased his monarch so well that he transferred him to Paris. In the autumn of 1862 Bismarck was recalled from Paris and given the portfolio of Minister of Foreign Affairs and the presidency of the Cabinet. Bismarck tried to do what the King had essayed in vain with regard to the army, but he failed. In October, 1866, he closed the Chamber, telling the Deputies that the monarch would get along without their sanction. The reorganization of the army went on. When the war with Austria had ended in 1866, the old German Diet was dissolved, and Schleswig-Holstein was added to Prussia. He was a leader in the moving spirit in all the proceedings which led to the annexation of Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, Frankfurt and Nassau to Prussia, and the formation of the North German Confederation, and the union between Saxony and Prussia. His success changed into conflict his power. He had been intimate with King William's chief adviser. As such he dictated the terms of the settlement of the war. In 1871 King William became Emperor of the German empire, which the sword and diplomacy brought into existence, and Bismarck, who had become a Count in 1866, was raised to the rank of Prince and Chancellor of the empire. Shortly after this he began his anti-Catholic crusade and brought about the expulsion of the Jesuits from Germany. An attempt to assassinate him was made in 1874. Bismarck presided at the Berlin congress in 1878. Since then he has devoted his energies to crushing out the Socialist movement that has swept over Germany. Lately he has been content with his position with regard to the Catholic church. While he has persisted in his opposition to Socialism he has more than once occasioned given utterance to sentiments that showed that his views on the labor question had materially changed.

### THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The Republican members of the ways and means committee have practically agreed upon every point of division on the tariff schedules and the reductions to be made from internal revenue, and will present the bill to the full committee for its consideration before the end of the week. The clauses relating to carpet-wools, Mexican lead ores and one or two other articles have not yet been finally and definitely passed upon. While the bill is not absolutely completed, and will, of course, be subject to revision, it is believed to be substantially a finished measure so far as the majority of the committee is concerned.

It is estimated by the framers of the bill that it will reduce the revenues about \$60,000,000. Of this reduction about \$36,000,000 to \$37,000,000 will be secured by the cut on sugar and from the revenue features of the bill. The free list, which contains with a few excep-

tions all the items in the Senate bill and a few others which were not in the Senate bill, will, it is estimated, make a reduction of between \$1,250,000 and \$1,500,000. The revision made throughout the tariff schedules are expected to make up the difference between the sums named and \$60,000,000. The internal-revenue features of the bill are as follows:

The entire abolition of all special taxes upon dealers of all kinds, commonly known as licenses; the taxes upon snuff will be repealed; farmers and planters growing tobacco will have the liberty to sell to whomsoever they please, without restraint, in the same manner as a farmer can dispose of any other products of his land. The tax upon manufactured tobacco will be reduced from 8 cents to 4 cents a pound; cigars, cheroots and cigarettes will carry the same tax as is imposed under the present law. Alcohol used in the arts is free under substantially the same restrictions as are prescribed in the Senate bill. The reductions in the revenue from these sources will be in round numbers between \$17,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

The other, earthenware, glassware and chemical schedules remain substantially as in the existing law. There are a number of important changes in the metal schedule. Existing rates are maintained upon iron ore and pig-iron; barbed wire for fencing is made dutiable at 6-10 cent a pound, which is below the duty upon that kind of iron entering into other uses. Brass, gilders and structural iron is reduced from 14 cents to 6-10 cent a pound, which is a reduction below that of the Senate bill. Railway iron is reduced 6-10 cent a pound, the present rate being 87 cent a pound, a reduction of about \$4 a ton, and a reduction in the rate fixed by the Senate bill. The duty on steel rails is reduced \$4 a ton. The duty on tin-plate has been increased to 23-10 cents a pound. Pig-iron remains free.

There is an increase in the duty upon pocket cutlery which the committee justify upon the ground of the depressed condition of that industry in the United States and the sharp and ruinous competition that has already been felt from Germany. Gun barrels are placed upon the free list. Hand sewing needles are also placed upon the free list. The new metal, aluminum, is given a designation for the first time under "metals and manufactures thereof," and is made dutiable at 37 per cent. ad valorem. In the lumber schedule the duty on sawed boards, sawed planks and finished lumber is reduced 10 per cent. from the present rate. There is a special provision inserted that in case Canada lays an export duty on lumber then duties shall be collected according to the rates under existing law.

There is an increase generally along the entire list in the duties upon agricultural products. The duty upon barley is raised to 30 cents a bushel, hops to 15 cents a pound, buckwheat to 15 cents a bushel, macaroni and vermicelli 15 cents a pound, and oats 10 cents a bushel. The duty on agricultural seeds is increased. The duty on rice is reduced from 2 1/2 to 2 cents a pound, rice flour and rice meal from 1 to 1/2 cent a pound, and broken rice to 1/2 cent a pound. Butter and substitutes thereof have the duty increased to 6 cents a pound, and duty on eggs is raised to 5 cents a dozen; potatoes to 20 cents a bushel. Hides, which are now on the free list, are made dutiable at 1 1/2 cents a pound. There is a small increase in the duty upon fruits. Oranges and lemons in packages of 1/4 cubic foot or less, 35 cents; in packages exceeding 1/4 cubic foot, 25 cents. Apples, 25 cents. Raisins, 25 cents a pound duty. Advances in duties have generally been conceded the farming interests, where it is believed increased duties will benefit the farmer. Spirits, wines and other beverages have been left as found in existing laws. Salt also has not been touched. Cotton manufactures are left substantially as in the bill. Jute, manilla, sun and sisal grass are put upon the free list, as is wool of grass, which enters into the finishing of leather. A reduction is made in the duty on binding-twine.

In the wool schedule: Wools of the first class, known as clothing wools, 11 cents a pound; wools of the second class, known as combing wools, 12 cents; carpet wools valued at 12 cents or less, 3 1/2 cents a pound; valued at over 12 cents, 8 cents a pound. This is a reduction of 1/4 cents a pound from the Senate bill and an increase of 1/4 cents from the present law. It is believed, however, that the definitions and classifications and restrictions provided for will make this duty even more valuable to the wool-growers than the duty fixed by the Senate bill. The carpet schedule has not yet been definitely arranged.

Sugar, under and including 16 Dutch standard, is made dutiable at 35 per cent. and above 16 Dutch standard at 40 per cent. This gives 5 per cent. additional duty to the refiners, and, as the standard is raised from 16 to 18, the people of the United States will be enabled, in case the refiners combine to put up the price, to import sugar which will be in every way fit for family use. This is a cut in the duties upon sugar of 50 to 60 per cent. Molasses is made dutiable at 25 per cent. ad valorem, the present rate being specific. This is a considerable reduction.

Among the new legislative provisions proposed in the bill is one that no importations shall be made into the United States which do not show plainly the country from which they are imported. This is done in order to put a stop to the practice, which has become very common, of sending foreign goods into the United States with American brands thereon, the purpose being to deceive the public and have the wares supplant American goods which have established reputations.

### Shot by a Burglar.

ALTON, Ill., March 19.—Intense excitement was created Tuesday morning by the news that ex-Senate Senator D. B. Gillham had been shot and dangerously wounded by a burglar in his own home at Upper Alton. Mr. Gillham and the robber had a desperate struggle, during which the burglar fired two shots, one taking effect in the breast of Mr. Gillham. The robber escaped, and the victim has small chance of recovery.

### A GREAT SUM GIVEN TO PENSIONERS.

Within the Last Thirty Years the Enormous Aggregate of \$1,105,326,017 Has Been Distributed Among the Veterans.

### HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—In the House Tuesday Mr. Stone (Mo.) introduced for reference a bill to abolish the Utah commission and to devote its duties upon a board consisting of the Governor, Territorial Secretary and President of the Council of the Legislative Assembly of Utah.

The House went into committee of the whole (Mr. Burrows, of Michigan, in the chair) on the pension-appropriation bill.

Mr. Morrow (Cal.), in charge of the bill (which appropriates \$98,424,461), explained its provisions in detail, and in reference to the general subject of pensions said that it might safely be assumed that the number of pensioners would reach its maximum about July 1, 1894, when the expenditure would be \$112,000,000. On that date, under existing law, the number of pensioners would be 750,000.

Mr. Sayers (Tex.) discussed the pension system as affected by both acts of Congress and the administration of the service. He cited statistics to show that from July 1, 1860, to January 1, 1890, the expenditures of the Government for pensions were \$1,105,326,017; that the expenditures for pensions for the last fiscal year were \$99,131,998;

that the expenditures for pensions from March 4, 1789, to June 30, 1861, throughout a period of seventy-two and one-half years, were \$80,738,327, and that the excess of pension disbursements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1889, over the pensions from 1789 to 1861, a period of seventy-two and one-half years, was \$8,393,641. He stated further that the cost of the war of 1812 was \$112,912,543, only an excess of \$14,185,083 over the disbursements for pensions for the last year—and that the cost of the war with Mexico was \$97,705,860, which was \$721,600 less than the pension disbursements of last year. He severely criticized the administration of the Pension Office, and thought that there should be a thorough investigation of the system in order that complete justice should be done to the men who had fought for their country, and the bounty-jumpers, the men who had been laggy, might be stricken from the roll so that a place on the roll might be evidence of loyalty, of bravery and of service to the country.

Pending further debate the committee rose and the House adjourned.

### SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—The urgency deficiency bill was passed in the Senate on Tuesday. A bill was introduced to amend the Inter-State commerce act, and Senator Hawley (Conn.) spoke in opposition to the Blair educational bill.

The following Senate bills for public buildings passed: Spokane Falls, Wash., \$100,000; Walla Walla, Wash., \$30,000; Saginaw, Mich., \$250,000; Sioux Falls, S. D., \$250,000; Tacoma, Wash., \$100,000; Deadwood, S. D., \$200,000; Seattle, Wash., \$100,000.

### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.

The spring elections in New York, most of which take place in the month of March, but on different days in different cities and counties, have within the last fortnight been held in about a third of the state, and with very significant results. Thus in fifteen counties in which last year the Republicans held the board of supervisors in twelve, by the late elections they retain the board in but six, a gain of six by the Democrats. At the same rate, the Democrats will hold three-fourths of the counties at the end of the spring elections, about the same proportion that was held by the Republicans last year. It is true that these local elections do not always turn upon political issues, but they do so in the main, and the late Samuel J. Tilden, whose knowledge of the details of politics in New York was never equalled, always counted a general gain or general loss at the town elections as an infallible index of waxing and waning party strength.

These democratic gains, it will be noted, are through the country, and their causes are manifest. In New York, as throughout the West, the democratic press has conducted a battle for tariff reform, and their work is beginning to tell. The results recorded in the fifteen counties referred to "are the protest of the roused intelligence" (in the language of the Albany Argus) "of rural New York against a tariff tax system which rests upon rural New York. They are the protests of the farmers of this state against a national administration which, within one brief year, has lost the respect of the country and never had the confidence of thinking men."

Like surprising changes with those in New York are noticed in Pennsylvania, where within a week or two such staunch Republican cities as Lancaster, Harrisburg and Gettysburg have been won from the Republicans, purely on political issues. In Iowa, too, in a few cities where elections have been held, as in Clinton the other day, democratic gains have in every case been shown.

All of which goes to indicate, as already hinted, that a tidal wave has set in in favor of tariff reform. Both the farmer in the country and the working man in the city are beginning to study economic questions and are discovering that a high tariff does them no good, while increasing the price of their living, their tools and implements. In 1888 the democracy were defeated on the tariff issue. In a year and a half they have gained such ground that tariff reform would now be the great issue on which the democrats could march to victory.

The movement in Ohio to provide for the choice of presidential electors by single districts has started the discussion as to establishing that method by act of congress for the whole United States, the same as a law of congress directs congressmen to be elected. Of the power of congress in the premises there is no question, but the objection is made that the Republican party would suffer by it. It would render impossible the election of another Republican president with a large majority of the popular vote against him, as was the case with Harrison and "Old Fraud Hayes." But bad as the Republican argument against the measure is, it will hold the party as with fetters of iron.

The whole Republican press, no doubt, will be horrified to learn that a Mississippi court and jury have found a white man guilty of murdering a negro and sentenced him to be hung, and that the governor positively refuses to commute his sentence to imprisonment for life. The name of the murderer is Mel J. Cheatham and his victim was James Tillman and the killing a cold-blooded assassination. The hanging is to take place at Jack, son to-day, March 19.